



## **PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF BIOTIC INVENTORY**

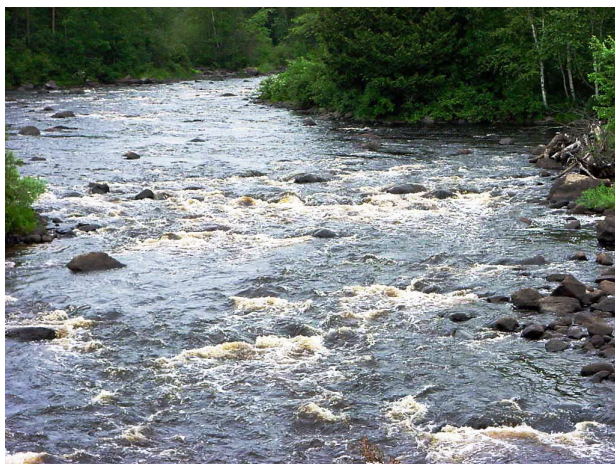
The Stage One Ecological Assessment that was performed by Clark Forestry is an important source document for master plan decision-making. The area studied is adjacent to Governor Thompson State Park and Peshtigo River State Forest. Sites both in and outside of the present boundaries were considered. Twenty-four sites of high ecological potential were identified by the study. Descriptions and lists for forest and wetland communities as well as rare plants and animals are included.

The study found the overall health of the river and the natural communities in the study area to be generally good, with many high quality areas and biotic communities remaining. However, there are also threats to the current ecosystem health. Factors that may effect ecosystem health include development, changes in forest management and succession, deer overpopulation, invasive alien species, and long-term effects on river flow of six hydroelectric dams operating on the Peshtigo River. Recommendations on how to deal with threats to ecosystem health and opportunities are also given.

## **REGIONAL ANALYSIS - A LOOK AROUND THE AREA**

The master planning Core Team asked DNR staff and the Upper Green Bay Partnership Team to put our planning efforts into perspective with the rest of the surrounding countryside. Here is a summary of the findings. Regional analysis details will be available when the plan is drafted.

- Two of the three largest water bodies in this watershed are Caldron Falls and High Falls Reservoirs. Lake Noquebay is the other major lake just east of US Highway 141 at Crivitz.
- The undeveloped shoreline of the reservoirs is an attraction that draws visitors to the resource.
- The project area is surrounded by over One Million acres of county, state and federal forest.
- Motorized recreation is popular, with over 1,700 miles of snowmobile and ATV trail within the four county (Marinette, Oconto, Florence, Forest) area.
- There are very few state parks in the region, only three within a 50-mile radius.
- Development pressures continue to grow in Stephenson Township. Over 60% of the homes in the area are used for seasonal occupancy.
- Water recreation may be more popular than land-based or forest-based recreation.
- There is a shortage of certain types of recreation trails in the region, namely onroad bike trails, ATV trails, horseback riding trails and interpretive trails.
- Camping is a popular activity in the region
- Forest management is important as shown by the large public and private forest holdings.



## **PROPERTY MANAGER HIRED FOR PESHTIGO RIVER STATE FOREST**

We are pleased to announce the hiring of Dan Mertz as Property Manager for the Peshtigo River State Forest. Dan's first official day is November 16, 2002. Dan has been a Department of Natural Resources Forester for the past 22 years at the Wausaukee Ranger Station. Look for a more detailed introduction in our next newsletter.